GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1842
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
IMPORT GROWTH
SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether import bill of almost all the sectors has increased during the first quarter of current year;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the sectors which have witnessed maximum import during the above period alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to curb the import bill?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (d): As per DGCI&S`s quick estimates, there is an increase of 30.5% in imports during the first two months of the current year as compared to the same period of the previous year. The items, which have witnessed maximum import, are the following:

Petroleum Crude & Products; Gold & Silver; Electronic Goods; Pearls, Precious & Semi-Precious Stones; Machinery, Electrical & Non-Electrical; Organic & Inorganic Chemicals and Vegetable Oil (Fixed).

With removal quantitative restrictions on most of the items for imports, market demand determines the level of imports of any item. However, the imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.